

Appl. No. 10/668,916  
Amdt. dated December 12, 2005  
Reply to office action of September 20, 2005

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for developing traffic messages comprising:  
obtaining data indicating traffic speed at a first location and a second plurality of  
locations on a road ~~network~~, each of said locations assigned a unique location reference  
code;  
~~evaluating comparing the data indicating traffic speed for said locations reference~~  
~~codes assigned to locations along a road of said road network; and~~  
if a difference between said compared traffic speed at said first location and said  
traffic speed at said second location is less than a threshold value, grouping said first and  
second location assigned said location reference codes along said road having related  
~~traffic speeds into at least one congestion event along said road.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said first location and said  
second locations assigned said location reference codes grouped into said congestion event  
are contiguous along said road.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein ~~each of~~ said first location  
and said second locations grouped into said congestion event are located within a  
predetermined distance of one ~~another of said locations within said congestion event.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said congestion event  
comprises a beginning location reference code at ~~which said related traffic speed begins~~  
~~along said road and a number of following location reference codes having said related~~  
~~traffic speeds.~~

Claim 5 (original): The method of Claim 1 wherein said congestion event comprises a  
direction.

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Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said congestion event comprises a beginning location reference code at which ~~said related traffic speed begins along said road~~ and a end location reference code at which ~~said related traffic speed ends on said road~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said congestion event comprises a congestion speed value representative of the ~~related~~ traffic speeds of the grouped first location and second location assigned said location reference codes.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said congestion event comprises an average speed of the grouped first location and second location assigned said location reference codes.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 wherein said congestion event comprises a congestion event code representing a level of congestion corresponding to said ~~related traffic speeds~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 further comprising obtaining data indicating an expected duration of said traffic speed at said first location and said second location ~~plurality of locations~~.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of Claim 10 wherein said congestion event comprises a duration indicating when said ~~related traffic speeds~~ are is expected to change.

Claim 12 (original): The method of Claim 1 further comprising transmitting said congestion event as a traffic message.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining data indicating traffic speed at a third location, said first, second and third locations are located along said road;

comparing the traffic speed of said second location to the traffic speed of said third location; and

if a difference between said traffic speed of said second location and the traffic speed of said third location is less than said threshold value, grouping said third location into said congestion event

~~prior to transmitting said congestion events, determining a road distance associated with each of said congestion events, said road distance for each congestion event being a distance from a beginning location reference code at which said related traffic speed begins along said road to a end location reference code at which said related traffic speed ends on said road; and~~

~~said congestion events having longer road distances being transmitted before said congestion events having shorter road distances.~~

Claim 14 (currently amended): A method for developing traffic messages comprising:

using a plurality of location reference codes assigned to a plurality of locations along a road;

obtaining data indicating traffic speed at said locations represented by said location reference codes;

comparing data indicating traffic speed at two of said locations;

if said compared traffic speeds differ by less than a predetermined value,  
aggregating said location reference codes representing said compared locations having traffic speeds within a predetermined range of traffic speeds, wherein said aggregated location reference codes representing contiguous locations along said road; and  
creating a traffic message from said aggregated location reference codes.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of Claim 14 wherein said congestion event comprises a beginning location reference code ~~at which said traffic speeds within said predetermined range begins along said road~~ and a number of following location reference codes having said traffic speeds differing by less than said predetermined value within said predetermined range.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of Claim 14 wherein said congestion event comprises a beginning location reference code ~~at which said traffic speeds within said predetermined range begins along said road~~ and a end location reference code ~~at which said traffic speed within said predetermined range ends on said road.~~

Claim 17 (original): The method of Claim 14 wherein said congestion event comprises a congestion speed value representative of said speeds of the aggregated location reference codes.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of Claim 14 wherein said congestion event comprises a congestion event code representing a congestion level corresponding to said predetermined range of traffic speeds of said aggregated location reference codes.

Claim 19 (original): A method for developing traffic messages comprising:

- obtaining data indicating traffic speed at a first location, at a second location, and at a third location, said first, second and third locations are located along a road;

- comparing the traffic speed of said first location to the traffic speed of said second location;

- if a difference between said the traffic speed of said first location and the traffic speed of said second location is within a threshold value,

- grouping the first location and the second location into a congestion event;

- comparing an average traffic speed of said first location and said second location to the traffic speed of said third location:

- if a difference between said average traffic speed and the traffic speed of said third

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location is within said threshold value, and  
grouping said third location into said congestion event.

Claim 20 (original): The method of Claim 19 wherein said congestion event comprises a congestion speed value representative of said speeds of said grouped locations.

Claim 21 (original): The method of Claim 19 wherein said congestion event comprises a congestion event code.

Claim 22 (original): The method of Claim 19 further comprising obtaining data indicating durations of said traffic speed at said first location, said second location and said third location; and said congestion event comprises a congestion duration indicating when said traffic speed of one of said grouped locations is expected to change.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method of developing traffic messages comprising:  
obtaining data indicating traffic flow at a plurality of locations on a road network;  
comparing data indicating traffic flow at two of said locations; and  
if said compared traffic flow differ by less than a predetermined value, aggregating  
said compared locations along the road network having related traffic flow into at least one  
congestion event along said road, wherein said aggregated locations are adjacent on said  
road network and said aggregated locations have corresponding traffic flow within a  
predetermined threshold.